



**AVERY BRADLEY**  
**TEXAS**



# The Newcomers

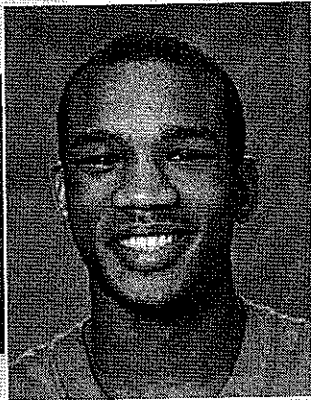
## AVERY BRADLEY 0

GUARD

Freshman • 6-2 • 180

Tacoma, Wash.

(Findlay Prep [Nev.])



Should compete immediately for time in the backcourt ... skilled combo guard who comes to Texas with the reputation as an outstanding on-the-ball perimeter defender ... ESPNRISE.com High School National Player of the Year and ranked as the No. 1 prospect nationally by ESPNU following his senior season ... McDonald's All-American and Jordan All-American ... won the slam dunk contest at the McDonald's All-American Game ... first-team Parade Magazine All-American.

### HIGH SCHOOL:

Spent his senior year at Findlay Prep in Henderson, Nev. (head coach Michael Peck) ... ESPNRISE.com High School National Player of the Year ... ranked as the No. 1 prospect nationally by ESPNU following his senior season ... McDonald's All-American and Jordan All-American ... first-team All-American by Parade Magazine ... won the slam dunk contest at the McDonald's All-American Game ... posted 15 points and six rebounds in 23 minutes for the West team in a 113-110 defeat at the McDonald's All-American Game in Miami (April 1) ... tallied 21 points (10-of-14 FG) in 29 minutes for the USA Junior Select Team in a 97-89 loss to the World Select Team at the Nike Hoop Summit in Portland (April 11) ... also paired with fellow UT recruit Jordan Hamilton and scored 14 points to lead the Black Team to a 110-103 win at the Jordan Brand Classic at Madison Square Garden (April 18) ... led Findlay to a 33-0 record and the mythical high school national championship ... averaged 19.1 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.9 steals per game as a senior ... converted 54 percent of his field goal attempts (258-of-477), 76.1 percent from the free throw line (83-of-109) and 38.3 percent from the three-point line (31-of-81) ... named MVP at the ESPNRISE National High School Invitational (April 3-5), averaging 20.7 ppg while leading Findlay to the tournament title ... recorded 27 points (10-of-21 FG), six boards, four steals and three blocks in the semifinal win against Montrose Christian (April 4) ... registered 20 points, eight rebounds and two steals in the championship game victory against Oak Hill Academy (April 5) ... transferred to Findlay in September 2008 after spending his freshman through junior years at Bellarmine Prep (Tacoma, Wash.) ... two-time first-team all-state pick (sophomore and junior seasons) ... averaged a team-best 25.7 points per game while leading Bellarmine to the Class 4A state semifinals with a 25-4 mark as a junior ... set the school single-game scoring record with 52 points as a sophomore in a triple-overtime win against Mount Tahoma High School.

### PERSONAL:

Full name is Avery Antonio Bradley, Jr. ... son of Alicia Jones and Avery Bradley, Sr. ... born Nov. 26, 1990 in Tacoma, Wash. ... became a Texas fan when his family lived in Arlington, Texas from 2001-04 ... family moved back to Tacoma in the summer prior to his eighth grade year (2004).

### OFF COURT WITH AVERY BRADLEY

**Favorite food:** Soul food and Italian

**Favorite musicians:** Lil' Boosie and Lil' Wayne

**Favorite Austin eatery:** Texadelphia

**Favorite TV show:** First 48

**Favorite place to be on campus:** Cooley Pavilion

**What announcer would you most like to hear call your game-winning shot?** Dick Vitale

**What coach from a TV or movie would you most like to play with?** Coach Carter

**What's one thing you own that you couldn't go a week without?** My cell phone

**What's been your best memory so far on the basketball court?** Winning the high school national championship

**If you could change one rule in the college game, what would it be?** Play four quarters instead of two halves.

**What one piece of advice would you give elementary school kids?** Follow your dream.

**What one moment in history do you wish you would have witnessed personally?** Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech

**What actor should portray you in a movie about your life?** Will Smith

**What three web sites do you look at the most?** Lids.com, iTunes.com, YouTube

**You chose your jersey number because:** I picked number 0 because it's a fresh start. I'm brand new to college so I'm starting all over.

**In your dream 2-on-2 matchup, whom would you pick as a teammate and who would you play against?** I'd team up with Michael Jordan and we would take on Kobe Bryant and LeBron James.

## Freshman Avery Bradley is fulfilling a childhood dream with spot on Texas Longhorns, big game in Arlington

12:00 AM CST on Friday, December 18, 2009

By **KATE HAIROPOULOS / The Dallas Morning News**  
khairopoulos@dallasnews.com

AUSTIN – Although highly touted Texas freshman guard Avery Bradley now hangs with NBA player T.J. Ford from time to time and can call his childhood idol for advice, he plays it cool.

Bradley doesn't tell Ford about the No. 11 Texas replica jersey, one still folded away at home in Tacoma, Wash., that Bradley enticed his older brother to hand down. Bradley's eyes must have rolled when his mother, Alicia, suggested he get Ford's autograph. It was Ford who made Bradley fall for UT basketball during an impressionable time. With his parents splitting up and his mom wanting a fresh start, Bradley's move to Arlington from the Seattle area overlapped with Texas basketball's most storied run, a Ford-led surge to the Final Four in 2003. Now it's Bradley who will help No. 2 Texas take on No. 10 North Carolina on Saturday at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, a short drive from his former home.

 CLICK IMAGE TO ENLARGE



ERICH SCHLEGEL/Special Contributor

"We would watch Texas all the time," said Bradley, who hung a Longhorns banner over his headboard. "I would see T.J. play, and I just fell in love with the program. ... He was the star of the team."

Bradley and his family returned to Washington before Bradley's eighth-grade year after living in Texas from 2001-2004, but the impact was made. As a rising recruit, by the end of his junior season, Bradley had received dozens of offers from major programs – but he held out for Texas. He found patience, as he's done in his first season in Austin. With his offense coming along to match his unique passion for on-the-ball perimeter defense, he's scored 50 points in UT's last three games. He's averaging 11 points and leads the Longhorns with 14 steals.

"He's just getting started," UT coach Rick Barnes said recently. "He's not even near what he can be."

Alicia Jones-Bradley remembers the family's time in Texas fondly because of the warm reception they received.

Avery still keeps in touch with many of his friends from Arlington. He has two aunts who live near Dallas, where he spent last Thanksgiving.

He expects a huge group of friends and family to attend Saturday's game, including Alicia, who tries to attend games every month.

Bradley favored football while in Texas. But when the family moved back to the Northwest, he hooked up with the Northwest Panthers, an elite AAU basketball club that has produced several Division I players, including the Washington Huskies' Isaiah Thomas and Abdul Gaddy.

Gaddy and Bradley, who are best friends, received loads of recruiting attention.

But after games, Bradley would always ask, "Was Texas here?" recalled Garry Ward, Bradley's AAU coach.

Texas assistant Chris Ogden, who was also interested in Gaddy, finally heard about it and checked out Bradley.

"I almost took it personal," said Bradley, of waiting for UT.

It was between the spring and summer of his junior year that he shot up in the recruiting rankings. He came to Texas for an elite summer camp.

"We wanted him as bad as we'd wanted anybody," Barnes said.

Bradley narrowed down a list that included Kansas, UCLA, USC and Texas. But he visited only Texas.

"They rolled out the red carpet, literally," Alicia said, describing the path that led from the airport terminal to a waiting car.

Another selling point: Saturday's game against storied UNC was already in the works, and UT pitched Bradley's homecoming to Arlington.

Bradley had played his senior year away from home. Findlay Prep, in suburban Las Vegas, is dedicated to basketball, with the team traveling nationwide for games – some televised – and players living together in a large house. Bradley did his academic work at an affiliated school that helped him ensure eligibility his freshman season, he said.

When he arrived in Austin last summer, Bradley turned to current and former UT players, including NBA star Kevin Durant, to show him the ropes. That's when he got to know Ford.

Bradley has worked hard at rounding out his offensive game, Ward said, honing a mid-range jumper and using his speed while keeping it under control.

Barnes admires Bradley's unselfish attitude but has mused about him being too deferential.

Bradley, Barnes said, is becoming more comfortable with his shot and even better at defense, which he's always loved to play – all for a school where he could always see himself.

"It's worked out great," Ward said, "for both of them." IN THE KNOW

Avery Bradley

Texas

Freshman, Guard

6-2, 180

**Hometown:** Tacoma, Wash

**Notable:** Bradley is expected to achieve at least a 3.5 this semester, though final grades were still pending. ...Bradley is wearing No. 0 this season to signify a fresh start in college. ...Bradley starred at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma for three seasons before transferring to Findlay Prep in Henderson, Nev., for his senior year. ...Findlay went 33-0 and won the mythical high school national championship... Bradley won the McDonald's All-America slam-dunk contest. ...He was named the No. 1 prospect nationally by ESPNU following his senior season, though Kentucky freshman John Wall also earned the top honor in several rankings.

## Longhorns' Bradley hooked on playing defense

Steve Megargee  
Rivals.com College Basketball Staff Writer

This is the fifth story in our series on freshmen who must make a big impact next season for their teams to challenge for league titles and get to the NCAA tournament.

ALSO: Derrick Favors | Zeke Marshall | Wally Judge | Michael Snaer

The trait that sets Texas freshman guard Avery Bradley apart from his peers becomes evident when he discusses his goals for the upcoming season.

Most freshmen would talk about how many points they plan to score or how many assists they plan to dish out. Bradley doesn't mention offense at all.



Texas freshman Avery Bradley (11), seen here during the McDonald's All-American Game, likes to get after it on the defensive end.

Avery Bradley wants to. That's the difference.

"I want to be a dominant defensive player, like one of the most dominant defensive players in college basketball," said Bradley, a 6-foot-3 guard who played at Henderson (Nev.) Findlay Prep. "I want to hold the best player on the opposite team [in check] and play hard defense the whole game."

That attitude doesn't surprise anyone who has seen Bradley, a five-star prospect considered the best perimeter defender in the 2009 recruiting class.

But it's his theory on defense that might produce some puzzled reactions.

"I don't think you can really *become* good at defense," said Bradley, the No. 4 overall prospect in the 2009 class. "It's just something that people are born with. I was born with the ability to play good defense."

He may have been born with outstanding speed and an exceptional wingspan, but plenty of other freshmen across the country boast similar gifts. Bradley's emergence as an elite perimeter defender came from his work ethic as much as from any natural ability.

"His makeup is all systems go, 100 percent of the time," said Garry Ward, who coached Bradley on the AAU circuit with the Northwest Panthers. "The same way Gary Payton played great defense and Dennis Johnson played great defense, Avery Bradley plays great defense. He doesn't know anything else. He just knows when he's on the floor, he's going to compete offensively and defensively."

"You see a lot of great, athletic players where you wonder as a coach or as a sportswriter or as a fan why that player can do anything he wants offensively, so why can't he do it defensively? Because they don't want to. Avery Bradley wants to. He wants to guard. He wants to compete."

While it's a bit presumptuous to mention Bradley alongside such legendary defensive stalwarts as Payton and Johnson, he has enough of a *ring* to indicate his mission to become one of college basketball's most dominant defenders is a reachable goal rather than an idle boast.

His arrival could help Texas make the leap from a second-round NCAA tournament team to a legitimate Final Four contender. Dexter Pittman and Damon James give Texas a formidable frontcourt duo. The arrival of Bradley should help ease the Longhorns' backcourt concerns.

"I like the depth on our roster," Bradley said. "Anybody that's going to get in the game is going to bring their all. Everyone's good on our team."

Although Bradley spent most of his teen years in Tacoma, Wash., he actually grew up a Texas fan. His family moved to Arlington, Texas, when he was in fourth grade before heading to the Pacific Northwest a few years later. He would move once more before starting his college career.

After playing most of his high school career on a Bellarmine (Wash.) Prep team that also featured five-star prospect and incoming Washington freshman Abdul Gaddy, Bradley moved to Findlay Prep for his senior year.

Bradley said he believes moving away from his family for his senior year helped prepare him for the college experience, particularly since he's attending a college so far from his hometown.

"It was really difficult, but me and my family decided that that was the best move for me to stay focused and get to the level where I'm at now," Bradley said. "I'm a lot calmer. I'm a lot more mature on and off the court. The whole living arrangements [at Findlay] just got me ready for the college life and just being away from home."

"It was a little tough at the beginning, but I got used to it. Now it's nothing. Being here at Texas, I'm not homesick at all. Being around my teammates, they just make me feel comfortable. It's going to make things a lot easier for me."

The move also benefited Bradley as a basketball player. Findlay Prep played a national schedule and went 33-0 to win the RivalsHigh national championship last season. Bradley averaged a team-high 19.1 points to go along with 4.6 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game.

Bradley managed to adjust to his new surroundings in part because his teammates were going through similar circumstances. Findlay attracts players from all over the world. By the end of the season, its eight-man roster included three Americans, two Canadians, two Puerto Ricans and a Nigerian.

"We always think our guys go away [to college] as sophomores because they've been through the things they're going to do in college with us," Findlay coach Michael Peck said. "They have a little bit of a head start."

Bradley followed up his championship season at Findlay by scoring 15 points in the McDonald's All-

### Backcourt shuffle

The biggest dilemma facing Texas in the preseason is how Longhorns coach Rick Barnes will arrange his backcourt. Barnes can choose from plenty of options. Here's a look at the Longhorns' backcourt candidates along with their 2008-09 statistics. The list doesn't include 6-7 freshman swingmen Jordan Hamilton and Shawn Williams.

### Dogus Balbay, 6-0/Jr.

**Key stats:** 3.3 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 3.1 apg  
**The buzz:** Balbay emerged as the Longhorns' starting point guard down the stretch last season and ranked second on the team in assists, though he doesn't provide much scoring.

### Avery Bradley, 6-3/Fr.

**Key stats:** He's a freshman  
**The buzz:** Bradley, the No. 4 overall prospect in the 2009 recruiting class, is an outstanding mid-range scorer and perimeter defender who starred last year for the Henderson (Nev.) Findlay Prep team that won the RivalsHigh national championship.

### J'Covan Brown, 6-2/Fr.

**Key stats:** He's a freshman  
**The buzz:** Brown, the No. 54 overall prospect in the 2008 recruiting class, recently was cleared by the NCAA after sitting out last season. Brown, from Port Arthur, Texas, is a good outside shooter who can defend either guard position.

### Jai Lucas, 5-10/Jr.

**Key stats:** Sat out as transfer last season  
**The buzz:** Lucas started each of Florida's 36 games and averaged 8.5 points per game two

American Game and tallying 21 points for the USA Junior National Team in the Nike Hoops Summit.

"We have never recruited a guy who has improved as much as Avery Bradley from the time he committed to us," Texas coach Rick Barnes said this summer.

Of course, those statistics don't provide an accurate measure of Bradley's worth because they don't reflect his defense, the aspect of his game in which he's a cut above his classmates. Jerry Meyer, the national recruiting analyst for Rivals.com, said Bradley's combination of leaping ability, lateral quickness and long arms makes him "without a doubt" the best perimeter defender in this class.

Meyer uses Bradley's performance a year ago in the Reebok Summer Championships as an example of his defensive prowess. Bradley's team was facing a squad that featured five-star prospect and incoming Florida freshman Kenny Boynton as well as Brandon Knight, the No. 1 prospect in the 2010 recruiting class. Whenever either player heated up, Bradley would start guarding him. Inevitably, that player would cool off.

"Avery is a scorer, but he's not your typical scorer," Meyer said. "He brings his pride and ego to every aspect of his game, not just his scoring. A lot of guys, all they care about are their points, and that's where their reputation sits. I love a prideful player and Avery plays with a lot of pride, but he puts that pride into every aspect of his game."

That pride is evident from the old-school facets of Bradley's game. Not only is he an exceptional defender, but he also has developed a mid-range shot. While so many other college players specialize in driving to the basket or firing away from 3-point range, Bradley has found other ways to score. Meyer said he believes Bradley is the best mid-range scorer of any player in this freshman class.

"It's a high-percentage shot," Bradley said. "It's easier than the '3,' and it's just something I worked on."

The biggest question surrounding Bradley isn't whether he can come in and contribute immediately. That much is a given. But will he make his mark at point guard or at shooting guard? Bradley could step right in and replace the departed A.J. Abrams as a shooting guard. Then again, Texas spent the entire 2008-09 season trying to solve its point guard problems. Florida transfer Jai Lucas and returning players Dogus Galbay and Varez Ward can play the point. Freshman J'Quan Brown also can play either guard spot. Bradley isn't as polished a point guard, but he could have the greatest upside.

"The next big challenge for him is to try to be a point guard, and it will be interesting to see what happens there," Meyer said. "He doesn't have to be a point guard to be a successful player and to make money as an NBA player, but if he becomes a point guard, he's a true two-position player and his value really skyrockets."

"He can defend the point guard right now, but he's not a point guard offensively."

Bradley already is trying to improve that part of his game. Bradley is willing to play either guard position, and he has spent the summer brushing up on his point-guard skills. He knows his increased versatility could help Texas make a deep postseason run.

"I feel like I'm work in progress right now at getting to the point of feeling that both [guard positions] are natural," Bradley said. "I set out to do whatever my teammates need me to do for us to be able to win a game."

Steve Megargee is a national writer for Rivals.com. He can be reached at [smegargee@rivals.com](mailto:smegargee@rivals.com).

years ago before deciding to transfer to Texas.

**Justin Mason, 6-2/Sr.**

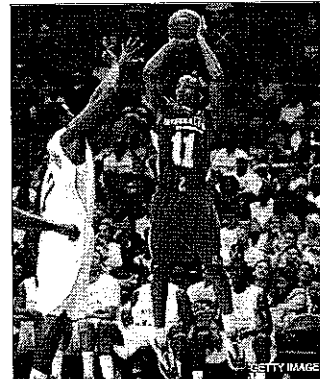
**Key stats:** 6.1 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 4.0 apg

**The buzz:** Mason has been a starter each of his three years at Texas and has earned a reputation as the "glue guy" who does all the little things. He led the Longhorns in assists and ranked second in steals last season.

**Varez Ward, 6-2/Soph.**

**Key stats:** 4.2 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 1.6 apg

**The buzz:** Ward showed he may be ready for an expanded role with his strong performances off the bench in the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments.



Texas freshman Avery Bradley can shoot the basketball, but he's not your typical scorer.



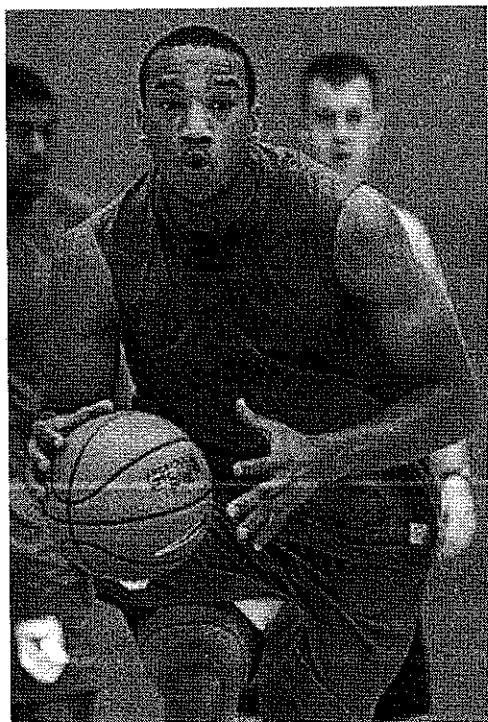
## Bradley's path to Texas carved out of chance

Sep. 21, 2009  
By Gary Parrish  
CBSSports.com Senior Writer  
Tell Gary your opinion!

AUSTIN, Texas -- So, Chris Ogden, you secured a commitment from the prospect at least one recruiting service has labeled the nation's best incoming freshman, and you did it less than six months after becoming a full-time assistant at Texas.

That's quite impressive, young man.

Please tell your secret.



"It's funny," Ogden said. "To be honest with you, I just got lucky."

Rick Barnes has a roster that could return him to the Final Four this season, and if the Longhorns win the national title, it won't surprise me one bit. They are experienced, talented and deep enough to accomplish anything. And if they do accomplish *everything*, one of the key reasons will be a freshman from Seattle named Avery Bradley, who turned down offers from each Pac-10 school to enroll at Texas thanks largely to a phone call from a guy who at the time was just 27 years old and only a few weeks on the job.

That was assistant Chris Ogden.

You might remember him as a four-year letterman at Texas and the captain of the 2003 team that went to the Final Four. Upon graduation, Ogden was hired by Barnes as an administrative assistant. He remained in that role until he replaced Ken McDonald, who left to take over for Darrin Horn at Western Kentucky in April 2008.

Fresh on the job, Ogden did what any new assistant would.

He turned to the World Wide Web.

"I was just reading, and I read Avery's name on the Internet; it was in the spring of his junior year, right after I got the job," Ogden said. "I just read a little something about him, just read his name, just a little blurb."

It's important to understand that this was not like reading about Renardo Sidney or Xavier Henry. At the time, Bradley was merely a borderline top 75 recruit, a guy best known as Abdul Gaddy's sidekick. There was nothing elite about him. And considering he lived 2,200

Avery Bradley is showing his stuff in Austin. (Courtesy University of Texas) miles from Austin, there was no reason for Texas to be recruiting him, especially when you consider that Ogden had never even seen him play.

But Ogden thought he might have an in.

There was this guy he knew who he believed was involved with Bradley.

So Ogden called that guy one day.

"And he told me he didn't have anything to do with Avery because he wasn't associated with that summer team anymore," Ogden said. "But before he hung up, he said, 'You know Avery used to live in Texas, and that he's always liked Texas, don't you? You ought to get on him.' I was like, 'Oh, this is great.'"

And it was true. Unbeknown to Ogden, Bradley had lived in Arlington, Texas, from fourth grade to seventh, during the years Texas won a total of 98 games and went to a Final Four. Bradley was a basketball player, remember. So naturally (and predictably), he was attracted to the winning and transformed into a Texas fan.

"When Avery was the age when you become a fan of a team, he was living in Texas and we were in the Final Four with T.J. Ford," Ogden said. "It just aligned that way."

So Ogden grabbed the phone and called Bradley.

"And when I got that call, I was happy," said Bradley, who already had -- and *still* has back home in Seattle -- a T.J. Ford Texas jersey. "Texas was always at the top of my list. I was just waiting for them to start recruiting me."

Ogden spent that summer recruiting Bradley.

Bradley spent that summer dominating the circuit.

By the time it was over, the 6-foot-3 guard had established himself as a consensus top five prospect nationally, and ESPN labeled him as the No. 1 player in the Class of 2009. Last September, he committed to Texas over UCLA, and now he's on campus and determined to be the next great UT freshman, but one who dominates defensively more than offensively.

"He's going to find ways to put the ball in the basket, but he doesn't care about scoring," Barnes said. "Avery wants to be a lockdown defender. He wants to be the best defender in the country, and he's not just talking it. It's what he does."

Thanks to three qualities -- 1) a solid and ripped frame shaped like a capital 'V'; 2) freakish athleticism; and 3) a proper mental makeup -- Bradley is a strong candidate to establish himself as the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and more. Honest to God, the guy just loves to guard. He takes pride in it, thinks about it, yearns for it. And to stress this point, Barnes told a story from July 2008, when Bradley was playing in a summer event that did not allow teams to pressure full court.

"Avery was so mad," Barnes said. "He would just stand right at the half-court line and wait for the guy, and some of those people having to bring the ball up the court were like, 'Oh, boy.' I mean, he's just tenacious. How many guys in high school want to go down and guard somebody 94 feet from the basket?"

Answer: Not many.

How many freshmen are going to be better this season?

Answer: Not many (if any).

"Avery is the total package," Barnes said. "Whatever *it* is, he's got *it*."

Combined with upperclassmen like Damion James and Dexter Pittman -- plus other talented newcomers like Jordan Hamilton and J'Covan Brown -- it's not a stretch to suggest Bradley is now a part of the most talented team Barnes has ever assembled. A national title is the goal. And it's wild to think that it might never have materialized had Bradley lived somewhere other than Texas in those four influential years, or if Ford wasn't the National Player of the Year in 2003, or if Ogden hadn't read that blurb and made that call.

But all those things *did* happen.

So now a star from Seattle is about to be a star at Texas.

For more from Gary Parrish, check him out on Twitter: @GaryParrishCBS

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